



To: Mayor Jenny A. Durkan
Date: March 20, 2019
Subject: *Clean & Hold: An Unsanctioned Encampment Removal Strategy*
From: Tiffany Washington, Tess Colby, DM Moseley

Purpose: YOU need to make a decision on the proposed unsanctioned encampment removal strategy designed to mitigate the impacts of unsheltered homelessness across the City.

Summary: The Clean & Hold strategy is designed to a) increase the number of encampment removals that are able to be completed (Cleans), and b) keep sites free from encampments once a removal has occurred (Holds). A multi-departmental workgroup collaborated on this proposed strategy. It has been vetted by SPD as well as the City Attorney's Office.

Background: The Clean & Hold strategy was developed over the course of five meetings with input and agreement from HSD, Parks, SPD, SPU, City Attorney and MO. The objectives of the strategy are to:

- Maintain clear sidewalks and other public rights-of-way for the use of all people.
- Reduce the public health and safety impacts of unsanctioned encampments.
- Improve the overall cleanliness and appearance of the City for all residents.
- Reduce the environmental impacts of encampments on City parks.
- More equitably distribute removal work across all geographic areas.
- Significantly increase the total number removals completed each month.
- Prevent cleaned sites from being re-camped.

There are two basic types of encampment removals: Obstructions (includes immediate hazard encampments) and 72-hour posted removals. Obstruction removals require no advanced notice and are used to maintain accessibility to public rights-of-way and to address immediate hazardous situations. These removals do not require the full Navigation Team, however, they will need Navigation Team support for the removal and storage of personal property.

Removals in areas posted with a 72-hour advance notice do require the efforts of the full Navigation Team and the offer of shelter and services.

The Clean & Hold strategy has several benefits including:

- An easy-to-follow protocol agreed upon by SPD and the City Attorney's Office.

- Buy-in from the departments involved in the removal of unsanctioned encampments.
- A significant increase in the total number of removals completed each day/month.
- A more equitable distribution of removal work across all geographic areas of the City.
- The ability to keep cleaned sites clean.

The Navigation Team has identified that additional resources will be required to implement the Clean and Hold strategy. The table below outlines HSD's estimated costs per/team, based on the daily removal of obstructions. The budget has not been approved by CBO. Each resource listed above is essential to each Obstruction Removal Team. At the current resource level the Navigation Team is able to process an average of four obstructions per day. The removal numbers listed above represent average increases over the current capacity:

Additional Resources Needed	Cost/One Team	Cost/Two Teams	Cost/Five Teams (1/Precinct)
Total Cost	\$ 399,941	\$ 799,882	\$ 1,999,705
Obstructions Removed	Additional 4 Removals/Day	Additional 8 Removals/Day	Additional 20 Removals/Day

Recommendation:

1. Obstructions

The team recommends a Clean & Hold strategy for Obstructions that makes use of SPD precinct-based Community Police Team and/or bike officers. The role of SPD officers is to make contact with individuals, provide written information regarding services and to request that personal belongings be voluntarily removed. If an individual is unwilling to move their belongings, officers may arrest the individual for violation of Title 15 (unlawfully using the right-of-way), Title 18 (Parks code violation), or No Trespass. SPD will make efforts to ensure that individuals are provided information regarding available shelters and other resources. If an individual refuses to remove belongings or physically departs but leaves belongings behind, the Navigation Team will be called to remove and store the belongings. If an individual physically interferes with the removal of property by the City, officers may arrest for criminal obstruction. Once the site is restored, it is prioritized for re-clean if reoccupied. The flow for voluntary and involuntary removal of belongings is in Attachment A.

The Clean & Hold strategy enhances the City's ability to address Obstruction removal. However, the 72-Hour-Post Removals are not modified under in this proposal. The work flow for 72-hour removals is in Attachment A.

2. Prioritization

The Team further recommends the following prioritization for removals based on the type of site, as follows:

1. Obstructions in public rights-of-way.
2. Obstructions in parks.
3. Repopulated emphasis areas.
4. Repopulated areas that have been cleaned but are not emphasis areas.
5. Encampments that have been inspected and are waiting to be calendared for 72-Hour-Post Removals.

3. Emphasis Areas

The current FAS rules limit the number of emphasis areas to ten. Eliminating that restriction will require a revision to that portion of FAS 17-01. The rules also do not provide criteria for the designation of emphasis areas. With the objective of addressing health and safety concerns, the Clean & Hold workgroup recommends using the following criteria for designation of emphasis areas:

- Proximity to City infrastructure.
- Location poses a danger to occupants or public.
- Accessibility for emergency responders.
- Contamination or harm to physical environment.
- Slopes over 27% grade.

Per the FAS rules, persons camping in an Emphasis Area and their encampment-associated personal property may be removed as an obstruction.

Under this proposal property owners (SDOT & Parks) will be responsible for monitoring their property, ensuring land-use restrictions are posted, and reporting encampments by filing Customer Service Reports (CSR). SPD CPT/bike officers will assist in monitoring emphasis areas and other land in the course of their regular duties and will assist with enforcement of applicable land use violations.

4. Current Large Encampment Workflow

Attachment A outlines the process for managing large, entrenched encampments that require 72-hours advanced notice as well as offers of shelter and services. This workflow involves the full Navigation Team and remains unchanged under this proposal.

Appendix

Attachment A: Clean and Hold Workflows

For Discussion Only Atty/Client Priv.